

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-07 COME-00 ITC-01

TRSE-00 L-03 SSO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 /027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1151

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 6491

FOR WOLFF FROM HEIMLICH

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT GARBLED THROUGHOUT TEXT

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO SPECIALTY STEEL TALKS

REF: STATE 236701

1. REQUEST UPDATE ON STATUS OF LETTER TO USITC REQUESTING
INVESTIGATION OF BEARING STEEL EXCLUSION.

2. 4200 TON ESTIMATE FOR BEARING ENTERED BY END OF
SEPTEMBER BASED ON ADDITION OF 2770 TON ESTIMATE BY
SAITA THROUGH END OF AUGUST PLUS 1400 TONS REPORTED BY
GOJ TO BE ENROUTE AS OF END OF AUGUST (NOTE: SOME OF 1400
MAY ARRIVE IN OCTOBER).

3. ESTIMATE OF ONE MONTH BREATHING SPACE TO BE GAINED BY
100 PERCENT SHIFT BASED ON TOTAL OF 2,100 TONS CHARGED
TO QUOTA THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, PLUS UTILIZATION OF 1,400
TONS MADE AVAILABLE BY 60 PERCENT SUSPENSION (WHICH SHOULD
BE USED UP BY END OF SEPTEMBER), 200 TONS ESTIMATED
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BY GOJ TO ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER ABOVE QUOTA (I.E. 6.2

PERCENT SHIFT), PLUS 1,600 TON DISCREPANCY WHICH MAY BE CORRECTED FOR BY END OF OCTOBER; PLUS 2,200 TONS ESTIMATED BY GOJ TO ARRIVE IN OCTOBER. THE TOTAL CHARTRED TO TOOL STEEL QUOTA BY END OF OCTOBER COULD BE 7.5 THOUSAND TONS WHEREAS 100 PERCENT SHIFT WOULD PERMIT ONLY 7.0 THOUSAND TONS.

4. REGARDING INDUSTRY POSITION ON SHIFTING FROM ROD AND BAR, IT IS UNLIKELY THERE WOULD BE SHIFT FROM ROD DUE TO HIGH QUOTA UTILIZATION BUT BAR IS LEADING CANDIDATE FOR SHIFT BECAUSE OF LOW UTILIZATION AND RELATIVELY LARGE TONNAGE. WILL DISCUSS WITH GOJ.

5. TWO CATEGORY APPROACH SHOULD ALLOCATE INDUSTRY CONCERNS ABOUT USE OF LARGE SHIFT AMOUNTS FOR TOOL RATHER THAN BEARING STEEL. PROPOSED BREAK OF 2.1 FOR OTHER TOOL AND 1.4 FOR BEARING SUGGESTED BECAUSE FORMER FIGURE SHOULD BE GOOD FOR FIVE MONTHS NEEDED TO OBTAIN EXCLUSION (WITHOUT SHIFT) WHILE LATTER REPRESENTS EXPECTED MONTHLY SHIPMENTS REPORTED BY YOKOYAMA (100 PERCENT SHIFT PER MONTH NEEDED).

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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